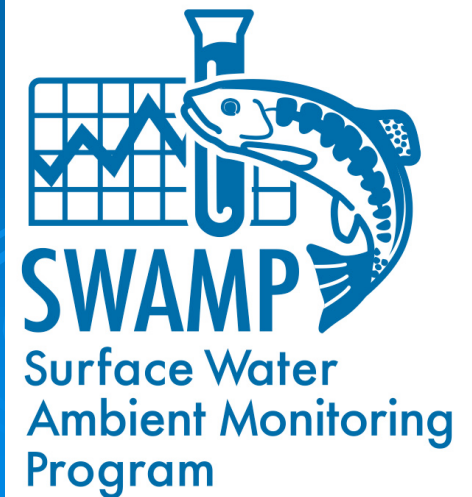


# California's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program

## Response to SPARC

February 16, 2006




# SPARC RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Reevaluate the original program goals
2. Identify key target audiences
3. Develop and implement a programmatic communication strategy
4. Develop a statewide assessment framework
5. Take more advantage of available resources
6. Realign program management and decision making with the revised program goals

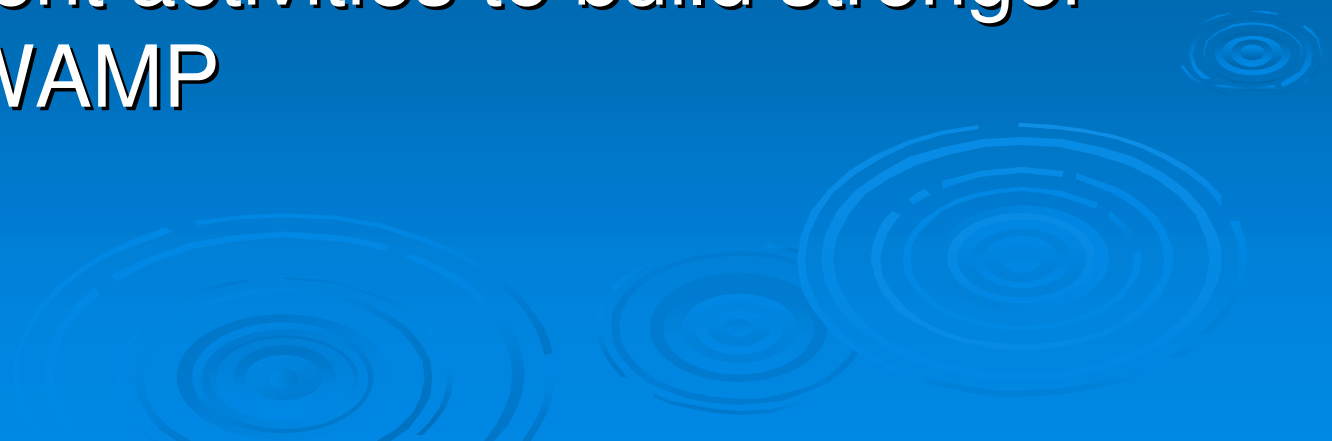
# Recommendation 1.

## Reevaluate Original Program Goals

- Define role of SWAMP relative to other Board programs
  - Give SWAMP authority to perform this role
  - Enhance state-level program direction
  - Match responsibility with funding
- 

## Recommendation 2.

### Identify key clients

- Identify Clients for SWAMP services
  - Include mix of local and statewide perspectives
  - Assess client needs
  - Utilize quality assurance and data management activities to build stronger links to SWAMP
- 

# Response 2.

## Client identification

### ➤ Clients/Data users

- EPA
- SWRCB
- Regional Board Programs
- Dischargers
- Grantees
- Environmental Groups
- Other Agencies

## Recommendation 3.

### Implement a communication strategy

- Develop strategy based on program goals and client needs
- Define range of signature products
- Develop schedule for routine production of products
- Look at mature programs for examples
  - Tailor the look
  - Target the audiences

# Response 3.

## Examples of Linking Products to Client Chains

### 305 (b) Water Quality Assessment

SWAMP data ➔ GeoWBS Staff ➔ EPA ➔ General Public

### 303(d) Impaired Waters

SWAMP data ➔ TMDL Staff ➔ SWRCB ➔ EPA ➔ Regulated Dischargers, NPS Dischargers

### 314 Lakes Report

SWAMP data ➔ DHS, OEHHA, EPA ➔ General Public, Water Suppliers

### 30? NPDES

SWAMP data ➔ RWQCB Permit Writers, Regulated Dischargers

# Response 3.

## Examples of Linking Services to Client Chains

### QAPP standardization

QAPP template, Expert System ➔ State and Regional QA Officers ➔ Grantees, Local Agencies, Volunteer Monitors

### Data Management System

Data Delivery Formats ➔ SWAMP Staff, SCCWRP, SFEI, DWR ➔ CIWQS, EPA STORET

### Assessment Tools

IBIs ➔ SWAMP and CDFG ➔ WQ Standards ➔ NPDES, 305(b), 303(d), Ag Waivers



# Response 3.

## Signature Products and Services – QA/QC

- SWAMP Quality Assurance Management Plan
- QAPP Template
- SWAMP Advisor
- Quality Assurance Help Line

# Response 3.1

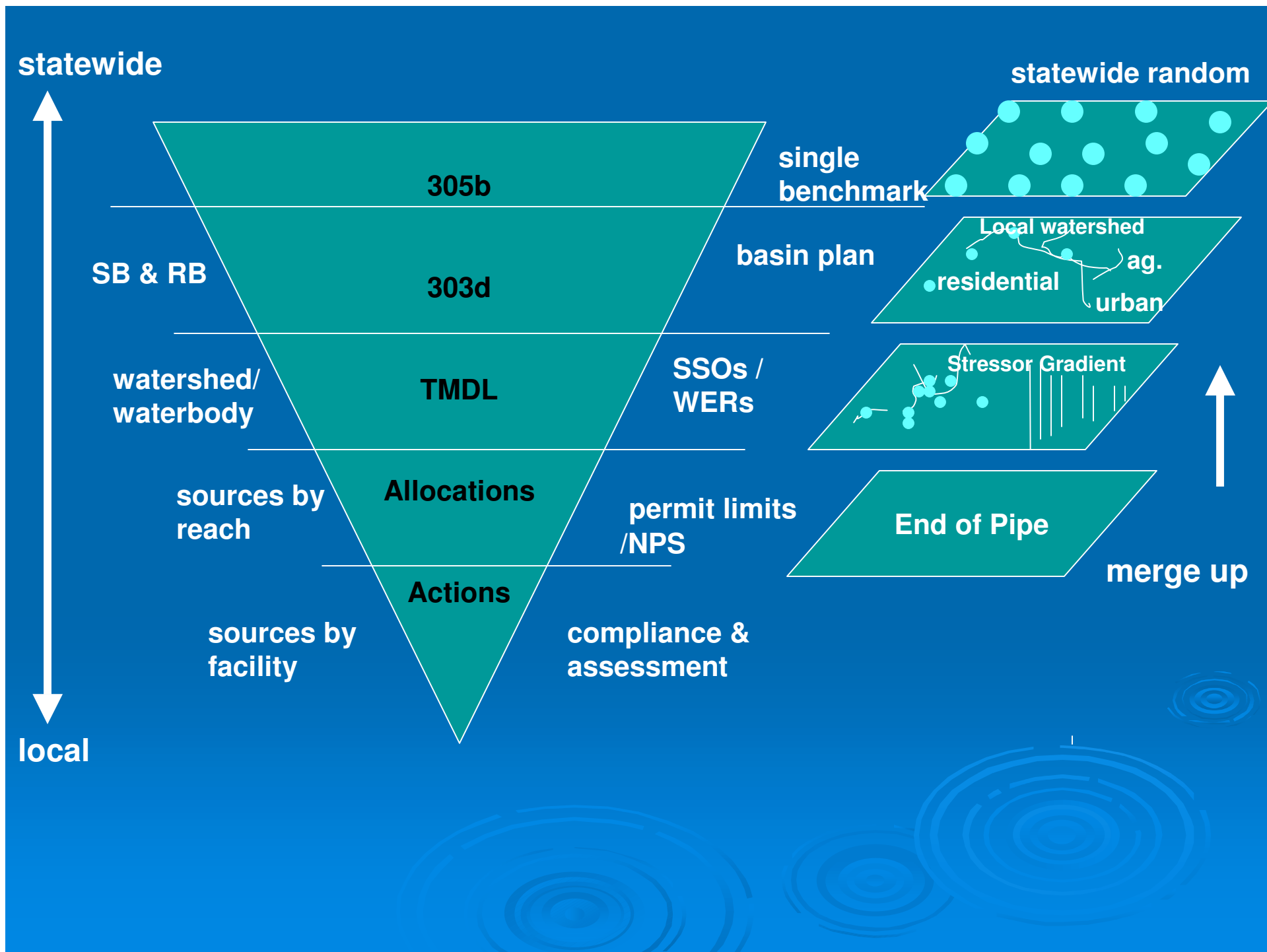
## Signature Products and Services – Data Management

- SWAMP Database
- SWAMP database internal/external trainings
- Web accessibility (CEDEN)
- STORET Integration
- CIWQS Integration

# Recommendation 4.

## Develop statewide assessment framework

- Supplement monitoring taking place within regions
- Provide conceptual structure for integrating objectives, design, indicators and methods across multiple spatial scales
- Define conceptual linkages among program goals, user needs, monitoring objectives, and design
- Meet client needs
- Provide framework for prioritization (monitoring, assessment, monitoring infrastructure, tool development)
- Include budget process to define allocation of funds to priorities



# Recommendation 5.

## Take advantage of available resources

- Develop a systematic strategy at the program level for coordinating with other large monitoring efforts, particularly those driven by permits.
  - NPDES and NPDES driven regional efforts (e.g. SCCWRP, SFEI)
  - BEACH Program
  - GAMA
- Develop more consistent, stronger, and broader connections with major monitoring efforts at the local, regional and statewide level.
  - This will require a systematic strategy with clear goals
  - Ability to articulate a clear mission and set of program goals
  - Support from higher levels of the State Board management infrastructure
- SWAMP should also develop working relationship with similar programs in other states and at the federal level.
  - These programs should be mined for data, approaches, insight, and advice. Such informal sources of input should be
  - Combined with periodic formal review that can act as mechanisms for exposing SWAMP to fresh ideas and constructive criticism

# Recommendation 6.

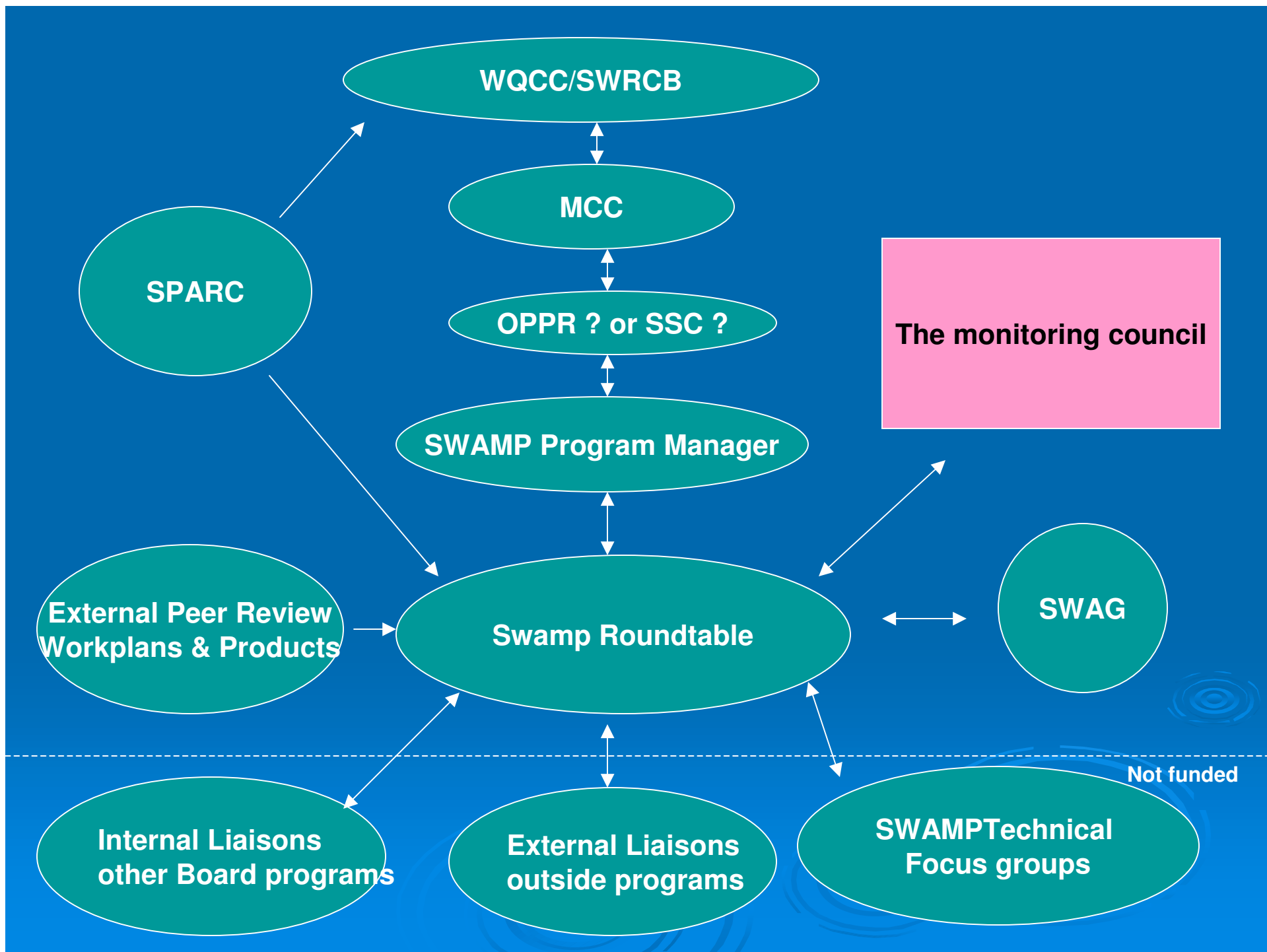
## Align management and decisions with goals

- Evaluate current management structure and decision-making relative to
  - revised program goals,
  - regulatory and monitoring efforts,
  - statewide assessment strategy
- Balance the benefits of collaborative decision making among the Roundtable with mechanisms for moving forward in the absence of consensus
- Develop a systematic decision process for setting priorities.
  - Monitoring, pilot projects, indicator development, assessment
- Develop a clearinghouse to facilitate information sharing among the regions

# Response 6.

## Looking at management options

- Recognize that Status Quo is not an option
  - Lacking resources (time, money)
  - Lack ability to get resources
- Need to elevate status of SWAMP within Boards
  - Communicate with programs
  - Integrate and implement with programs
- Need to coordinate with other agencies





## Response 6.

### Management and decision making

- Monitoring strategy is integrated into the California Performance Partnership Agreement and used in state negotiation process
- SWAMP awareness raised to level of Board and State Legislature

# Implementation Strategy

- Monitoring Program Strategy (1)
- **Monitoring Objectives (4)**
- **Monitoring Design (4)**
- Core Indicators of Water Quality (2,3)
- Quality Assurance (2,3)
- Data Management (2,3)
- **Data Analysis/Assessment (2,3)**
- **Reporting (2,3)**
- Programmatic Evaluation (5,6)
- General Support and Infrastructure (5,6)